

Exhibit No. 6Date 4-4-07Bill No. HB 407**ARD NET****Asbestos-Related Disease Network****Karol Spas-Otte, RN****Program Director****Betty Challinor****Case Manager****418 Main Ave****Libby, MT 59923**

I'm Betty Challinor and have worked for ARD NET, the Asbestos Related Disease Network, for the past 4 years as a case manager. I am in the homes of many of the asbestos victims helping set up services like housekeeping, assistance with bathing and meal prep, the kinds of things people who can't breathe, can't do. I try to help them stay in their own homes where they are comfortable, for as long as possible. I also help them fill out applications for fuel assistance, property tax reduction, homeowners credit. Being at home is much better than in the nursing home. That is not a desirable option.

I have lived in Libby for about 45 years and have seen the effects asbestosis has on many of the citizens. I have worked and still do for the Area VI Agency on Aging as the Lincoln County representative for 17 years. I have witnessed a lot of people that look healthy and enjoying life. Within a few years, asbestosis has changed them into being totally dependant on others because they cannot breathe. The lack of oxygen robs their bodies to the extent they cannot function.

I watched my husband go through this same debilitating disease and waste away to a shadow of the man he used to be. I watched him labor to breath and even walking to the bathroom was very hard for him. His voice became a whisper and he could hardly communicate with anyone. Asbestosis was a contributing factor to his death.

The requested funding is very essential to keep these services in place. We know it is not a permanent fix, but the funding makes a difference in the quality of life for the victims and their families. The disease affects the entire family; not only parents that have the disease, but also the children who could experience the same diagnosis in their lifetime.

The screening program at the CARD, the Center for Asbestos Related Disease, is very important to find out if another name will be added to the list of over 2000 that already have been diagnosed.

PLEASE consider funding this bill that would help a town that has been devastated by a big corporation that just wants to turn its back and walk away.